

# UCD School of Art History & Cultural Policy

## Information for Stage 1 Art History Students

2023/24

[www.ucd.ie/arhistory](http://www.ucd.ie/arhistory)



## Welcome to UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy

Art History explores the complex relationship between visual art, culture and society throughout history and into the present day. It nurtures expertise in how to recognise, interpret, and analyse works of art and architecture from the past, as well as from contemporary practice, and studies those involved in their creation and reception. The School's curriculum addresses Western and non-Western art forms, across a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, architecture, video and performance.

We are a small and close-knit School, with a long and proud history as pioneers in the teaching of art history in Ireland. We are passionate about our subject and committed to giving our students the best support and encouragement in order to build a strong sense of academic community and subject identity. We seek to promote original thinking, interpretative and analytical skills, critical enquiry, and visual acuity through lectures, small group teaching and site visits. We encourage our students to examine artworks critically and understand the conditions of their making, meaning and influences, as well as to question the process of looking itself.

### Where we are

The School is located on the ground floor of the Newman Building with our offices, Rosemarie Mulcahy Seminar Room and Françoise Henry Reading Room located between J001 through to J014.

The School Office is located at J010.

### How to contact & meet us

All your lecturers will indicate their office hours (whether in-person or online) and contact details in their course handouts and in Brightspace. In addition, both the **School Manager Elizabeth Varley** (Office J010; [elizabeth.varley@ucd.ie](mailto:elizabeth.varley@ucd.ie)) and **Slide Curator Carla Briggs** (Office J001-3; [carla.briggs@ucd.ie](mailto:carla.briggs@ucd.ie)) will ensure there is in-person support for all students each day of the week (Mon-Fri). The **Head of School** is **Assoc. Prof. Philip Cottrell** (Office J012; [philip.cottrell@ucd.ie](mailto:philip.cottrell@ucd.ie)).

### Stage 1 Coordinator

With regard to general problems concerning written work and course material, students should consult the relevant module coordinator. However, the **Stage 1 coordinator Prof. Lynda Mulvin** (Office J013; [lynda.mulvin@ucd.ie](mailto:lynda.mulvin@ucd.ie)) encourages students experiencing more serious difficulties to contact her for a chat.

## Stage 1 Art History Modules

The four stimulating courses in Stage 1 (First Year) Art History collectively analyse the key movements, artists, artistic traditions and issues that have resonated and evolved throughout European art from Antiquity to the early twentieth century. These also provide a foundation in the theories that underpin Art History as a discipline. Students are strongly advised to take as many of the Stage 1 modules as possible to give them a solid foundation for the further study of Art History. Students are also strongly advised not to take any Stage 2 (or higher) Art History modules until they have completed their Stage 1 Art History requirements. All Stage 1 modules are worth 5 credits. Emphasis is placed on active student participation and on independent reading and study.

Students on the following programmes should note the core module requirements:

**Students on the BA programme (DN520)** who wish to major in Art History must take **AH10160** as a core module requirement alongside at least one other Art History module at Stage 1.

**Students on the BA Humanities (DN530) Classics, Art History, Archaeology programme** have two core Art History requirements at Stage 1: **AH10160** and **AH10150**.

### AUTUMN TRIMESTER

#### **AH10160 Art History in the Making**

Assoc. Prof. Conor Lucey

Autumn Trimester: Mon & Wed @ 9:00am

This module aims to give students grounding in the fundamental techniques and principles used in the production of works of art, from antiquity to the modern day. In addition, it explores the theories and ideas that form the foundation of art history as a discipline, including writing on art, principles of stylistic and historical analysis, and ways of seeing. The course will include lectures on different media and techniques involved in painting, sculpture, printmaking, performance and time-based works of art. It will also examine how the analysis of a work of art is structured and written; and reflect on changing theories of art history, viewership and the object..

#### **AH10120 The Art of the Renaissance: Reform and Rebirth**

Assoc. Prof. Philip Cottrell

Autumn Trimester: Tue @ 11:00am & Thu @ 12:00pm + tutorials

This module acts as an introduction to European Renaissance art c.1300-1600, with a particular focus on Italy. This immensely fertile period witnessed the emergence of the first great personalities of Western art: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Titian, Albrecht Dürer, Hieronymous Bosch, and Pieter Bruegel. As well as profiling the careers of these and many other notable figures, this module will seek to place individual works of art in their wider historical and cultural context. We shall analyse the traditional meaning of the Renaissance as a period of 'rebirth' founded upon a revival of interest in the art and culture of the Ancient world. Many of the notions governing our perception of the artist's role in society stem from the Renaissance, and as we explore changing patterns of artistic production, techniques and patronage, a dramatic story begins to unfold: the artist's struggle to win greater social, professional and intellectual esteem.

### SPRING TRIMESTER

#### **AH10140 The Baroque to Romanticism: European Art 1600-1850**

Assoc. Prof. John Loughman

Spring Trimester: Tue & Fri @ 1:00pm + tutorials

This course provides an introduction to European art and architecture between 1600 and 1850 - a period characterised by dramatic political, religious and social upheavals and the decline of the old European order. Such volatility is vividly reflected in the work of artists we will study. These include such major figures of interest as Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Velázquez, Hogarth, Goya and Turner - all of these figures, and many other relevant artists, are ably represented by works on display locally in the National Gallery of Ireland. As a result, through field trips and tutorials, students will have the opportunity to encounter the development of shifting artistic styles, from Baroque to Rococo, from Neoclassicism to Romanticism. Among the areas to be explored will be the rise of academies, the impact of the Counter Reformation, gender and art, and the emergence of new pictorial genres.

#### **AH10150 The Modern World 1848-1914**

Dr Aleksandra Gajowy

Spring Trimester: Mon & Wed @ 9:00am + tutorials

The course examines the key developments in Western art from 1848 to the outbreak of World War One in 1914. This period saw the beginnings of modern art, when traditional practices of making and viewing art were challenged. Industrialisation brought rapid social changes that impacted dramatically on how the world was experienced and understood. The module concentrates on Paris, the centre of the modern art world, which saw the development of Realism, Impressionism and Cubism. Lectures also consider the impact of modernity and urbanisation on British, Austrian, German and Russian art. The influence of photography, non-Western art and spiritualism is addressed.